

CONTRIBUTION TO THE LICHEN FLORA OF URUGUAY XVII.
The scientific name of the "Yerba de la Piedra".

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The only lichen species occurring in Uruguay which possess a vernacular name is a saxicolous Usnea known as "Yerba de la Piedra" (Stone Grass). The first literature record known by the author belong to Arechavaleta (1894) and the scientific name given is Usnea barbata. In this paper a list of lichen species identified by Muller Argau is added but the varieties of Usnea barbata quoted: U. b. var. aspera Müll. Arg. and U. b. var. strigosa Kremp. are reported as growing on bark. There is no doubt that J. Arechavaleta misinterpreted this species.

In his work "La Vegetacion Uruguaya" Berro (1901) identified the "Yerba de la Piedra" as Usnea hieronymi Kremp. and listed some medical uses. He also indicated that this lichen is largely distributed in the country. As the author pointed out in a recent paper (Osorio 1981) in the lichen collection of M. Berro deposited at MVM the species Usnea hieronymi is not represented. The saxicolous Usneae which integrate this collection are: Usnea amblyoclada (two collections) and Usnea densirostris (five collections).

In his "Florula Uruguayensis" Herter (1933) also named the Yerba de la Piedra as Usnea hieronymi Kremp. which is issued in his "Plantae Uruguayenses Exsiccatae" under the number 318 and its distributional area extends through the whole country. In two subsequent papers (Herter 1933a, 1936) additional quotations of this species can be found. In a later paper (Herter 1943) deleted Usnea hieronymi from our flora and the name of Usnea densirostris Tayl. is applied to this species for the first time. The number 318 of the Exsiccata is also identified with the new name. After the revision of some collections identified as Usnea hieronymi and based on the study of a large number of saxicolous Usneae the author also concluded that this is the correct name for the "Yerba de la Piedra".

In spite of the nomenclatural correction made by Herter in some succeeding papers the name of Usnea hieronymi was frequently misapplied to the "Yerba de la Piedra" (Chebataroff 1944, Arrillaga de Maffei 1969, Koch de Brotos et al. 1981).

In the Lichen Herbarium of the Museo Botanico de Montevideo (at present deposited at MVM) four collections named *Usnea hieronymi* can be found. The revision of these specimens proved that they can be referred to *Usnea densirostra* or *Usnea amblyoclada* as follows:

- URUGUAY: Maldonado, 1926, alt. 200 m., Herter Plantae Uruguayenses no. 318. Redetermined as *Usnea amblyoclada* (Müll. Arg.) Mot. A sample of this number preserved in Farlow Herbarium was identified by Motyka (1936/38 pg. 318) as *Usnea densirostra* Tayl.
- " Maldonado: Cerro del Toro, IV.1926, collector unknown, Mus. Bot. Montevicens. nr. 2597. Redetermined as *Usnea densirostra* Tayl.
- " Maldonado: Cerro Pan de Azucar, VIII.1928, Lombardo s.n., Redetermined as *Usnea amblyoclada* (Müll. Arg.) Mot.
- " Maldonado: Cerro Pan de Azucar, IX.1932, collector unknown, Mus. Bot. Montevicens. no. 7102. This collection is a mixture of *Usnea densirostra* Tayl. and *Usnea amblyoclada* (Müll. Arg.) Mot.

Summing up the knowledge that exists of the three saxicolous *Usneae* involved in the present question is as follows:

Usnea hieronymi Kremp.: its occurrence in Uruguay is reduced to a single collection made by Arechavaleta in the last century and published by Motyka (1936/38 pg. 649).

Usnea amblyoclada (Müll. Arg.) Mot.: is very scarcely collected in our country according with the literature records (Motyka 1936/38, Osorio 1980 & 1981) and with the herbarium specimens below listed.

Usnea densirostra Tayl.: is the most accurate name for the "Yerba de la Piedra". Within the saxicolous species of the genus *Usnea* in Uruguay this is the most commonly gathered as shows the below listed collections from MVM and the private herbarium of the author.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED:

Usnea amblyoclada (Müll. Arg.) Mot.

FLORIDA: Cerro Colorado, De Mata 67 (Herb. Osorio).

MALDONADO: Cerro Pan de Azucar, Osorio 857; Sierra de de las Animas, Cañada Totorá, Osorio 5202.

Usnea densirostra Tayl.

CERRO LARGO: Arroyo La Tigra, Marchesi & Del Puerto 2.III.1972 (MVM).

DURAZNO: El Cordobes, Estancia Las Pitangas, El Prado, Osorio 2928.

- LAVALLEJA: Abra de Cotto, Osorio 6461; Arroyo Aguas Blancas and Hwy. 8, Legrand VII.1960 (MVM); Cerro Arequita, vid. Motyka, Osorio 2062; Cerro Penitente det. Motyka, Osorio 3289, 3291; Minas, Parque de Vacaciones de UTE, Osorio 4931; Villa Serrana, det. Motyka, Osorio 2029; 15 km SSW from Aigua, Achaval 6/8.VI.1973 (MVM).
- MALDONADO: Abra de Castellanos, Osorio 6542; Abra de Perdomo, Osorio 1897, Philippi 28.VII.1968 (MVM); Cerro Pan de Azucar, San Martin 21.VIII.1960 (MVM); Piriapolis, Cerro del Toro, Osorio 4596; Punta Ballena, Parque Lussich, Osorio 4606, 4609; Punta Colorada, vid. Motyka, Osorio 1852; Sierra de las Animas, Femenias VII.1981 (MVM).
- MONTEVIDEO: Carrasco, Cañada de las Canteras, Osorio 2652.
- ROCHA: Cerro del Negro (near Arroyo Valizas), Baeza 20.I.1973 (MVM); Castillos, Cerro de los Rocha, Osorio 5633; Hwy. 16, Cerro Aspero, Osorio 572; San Miguel, Cerro Picudo, Gortari 29.IV.1972 (MVM).
- SAN JOSE: Sierra Mahoma, Martinez Machiavello, 1.I.1955 (MVM).
- TREINTA Y TRES: Quebrada de los Cuervos, Osorio 5970.

SUMMARY.

The saxicolous Usnea with the vernacular name of "Yerba de la Piedra" (Stone Grass) is erroneously identified as Usnea hieronymi Kremp. in several publications and herbarium specimens. The accurate name for this plant is Usnea densirostra Tayl.

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